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Muscle Shoals Baptist Association

v. 1. 1850

v. 2. 1854

v. 3. 1855

v. 4. 1858

v. 5. 1859

v. 6. 1861

v. 7. 1867

v. 8. 1871

v. 9. 1885

v. 10. 1887

v. 11. 1888

v. 12. 1891

v. 13. 1892

v. 14. 1893

v. 15. 1895

v. 16. 1896

v. 17. 1897

v. 18. 1898

v. 19. 1899

v. 20. 1900



MINUTES.
OF THE
SEVENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
MUSCLE SHOALS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

Hartselle Baptist Church, Morgan County, Ala.,

September 30, and October 1, 2 and 3, 1897.

OFFICERS:

ELDER R. T. WEAR, MODERATOR,	Mt. Hope, Ala.
ELDER JOS. SHACKELFORD, CLERK,	Danville, Ala.
W. D. LRWIN, TREASURER,	Moulton, Ala.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, MOULTON, ALA.

JOURDAN WHITE,	J. M. KITCHENS,	J. M. SHOEMAKER,
A. W. BAILEY,	J. N. BRAGG,	H. B. IRWIN,
J. G. ORR,	J. B. TIDWELL,	J. A. WALKER,
W. D. IRWIN,	J. M. SANDLIN,	J. N. JACKSON,
	WM. EAST,	W. D. IRWIN, Treas

BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION, DANVILLE, ALA.

Joseph Shackeldord, J. M. Kitchens, J. G. Orr, G. C. Hardwick,
C. T. Wallace, Byrd Gibson, Joseph Sandlin.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon at 11 a. m. Thursday.
2. After intermission—Thursday afternoon—the Moderator shall call the Association to order and appoint Reading Clerks.
3. Read letters from the churches and enroll delegates.
4. Elect officers.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Call for correspondence from other bodies.
7. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
8. Appointment of Committees, viz: 1—On Devotional Exercises. 2—State of Religion. 3—Deceased Ministers. 4—Documents. 5—Finance Committee.
9. Call for report of Board of Trustees of North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School at Danville.
10. Call for report of Executive Board.
11. Friday Morning—Religious Exercises one half hour.
12. Miscellaneous Business.
13. Appoint messengers to corresponding bodies.
14. Call for Treasurer's Report.
15. Call for Report of Board of Ministerial Education.
16. Report of Missionaries.
17. Report of Standing Committees in the order of their appointment.
18. Report of other Committees in their order.
19. Appoint Time and Place of next meeting and the preaching of the introductory sermon and the alternate.
20. Miscellaneous Business.
21. Read the minutes, call the roll and adjourn.

The next session will be held with Enon Church, Lawrence Co., commencing on Thursday before the first Sabbath in October, 1898.

NAMES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICE.

Austin, W. H. Russellville.	*McClanahan, J. D. Hartselle.
Bragg, T. R. Danville.	Martin, T. S. Danville.
*Blackman, J. R. Courtland.	Norwood, B. Courtland.
*Briscoe, Marlon Danville.	*Roan, J. E. Somerville.
*Briscoe, A. W. Danville.	*Roberts, J. M. Town Creek.
*Briscoe, W. J. Falkville.	Richey, J. L. Danville.
*Bradford, Isaac Avoca.	*Shackelford, Jos. Danville.
*Cobbs, W. T. Falkville.	*Sandlin, J. W. Moulton.
*Churchwell, J. J. Moulton.	Stephenson, E. D. Danville.
Dawson, J. D. Town Creek.	*Stockton, J. I. Simpson.
*David, F. C. New Decatur.	Smith, W. G. W. Falkville.
*Evans, James. Russellville.	*Wear, R. T. Mt. Hope.
*Gunn, Jackson Trinity.	*Wear, L. A. Landersville.
Gibson, J. S. Mt. Hope.	*Wright, W. E. Somerville.
Hembree, J. H. Danville.	Wright, J. S. Somerville.
Kilpatrick, J. B. Danville.	

NOTE—Those marked with*, are regularly engaged in preaching to from 1 to 4 churches.

MINUTES.

The Delegates composing the Seventy-eighth Session of the MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS, convened with the Hartselle Baptist Church, Morgan County, Alabama, Thursday, September the 30th, 1897, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Elder A. J. Thames read the 14th chapter of Exodus. After singing, prayer was made by Elder J. L. Stockton. After another song, Elder Joseph Shackelford offered prayer. The introductory sermon was then preached by Elder A. J. Thames. His subject was obedience to God's commands, founded on the incident related in the chapter read; the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. The sermon was practical and appropriate to the occasion. After the sermon the congregation was dismissed for one hour and a half. Prayer by the Moderator.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association assembled at the appointed time. After singing and prayer by Elder Mack Stamps, Elder R. T. Wear, the former Moderator, called the Association to order and declared the body ready for business. The former Clerk, Elder Joseph Shackelford, took his place at the Clerk's table.

Bros. M. Stamps, J. M. Roberts and John A. Thomason were appointed reading Clerks. The letters from the churches were then called for and read, and the names of delegates enrolled, as follows:

Bethel (C) W. M. Holliman.

Bethel (M) F. M. Reeves, J. C. Love, J. W. Stephenson.

Central New Decatur: J. A. Thomason, R. H. Allison, W. R. Spight.

Cherry Hill: Letter, no delegates.

Enon: J. W. McMillan, T. H. Sullivan J. T. Wallace.

Decatur, 1st: Letter, no delegates.

Danville: Jos. Shackelford, J. B. Kilpatrick, J. G. Orr.

Harmony: J. A. Walker, Clarence Gillespie.

Pleasant Hill (L): S. D. Cartel.

Falkville: J. B. Sherrill, W. T. Cobbs, E. L. Hays.

Liberty: M. Odell, L. A. Waldrep.

Gum Spring (L): Letter, no delegates.

Mission Grove: R. O. Reed.

Mt. Nebo (M): J. R. Witt, John Gibson, R. B. Minter.

Mt. Nebo (F): R. L. Quinn.

Mt. Zion (L.): J. H. Butler, C. C. Willis, J. L. Richey.
Macedonia (M): J. S. Brumlow, Burt McCulloch.
Mt. Hope: J. S. Gibson.
Mt. Pisgah: Geo. H. Hughes, R. B. Day, J. W. Petty.
Pleasant Grove: T. R. Bragg, J. J. Churchwell, R. M. Hefner.
Okolona: James Campbell, J. C. Reed.
New Decatur: Letter, no delegates.
New Prospect: M. H. Masterson, W. V. Willis.
Prospect: J. E. Leeman, J. T. Watkins.
New Friendship: W. E. Wright, R. M. Bell.
New Centre: M. T. Blankenship, F. S. Ferguson, W. M. Bryant.
Russellville: James Evans, J. O. A. Pace.
Pleasant Hill (M): George W. Russell, Jos. Robinson, A. Y. Stewart.
Rocky Creek: J. P. Scruggs, J. C. Allison, Hardin Oden.
Sheffield: Mack Stamps.
Somerville: J. E. Weaver, J. E. Roan.
Tuscumbia: C. A. Womble, A. J. Thames.
Town Creek: R. T. Wear.
Hopewell: J. Hembree, Willis W. Orr, William Nance.
Siloam: Letter, no delegates.
Shady Grove: C. M. Livingston, E. T. Moore, J. F. Daniel.
Trinity: J. I. Stockton, W. R. Frazier.
Cave Spring: James Ratliffe, W. C. Collier.
Gum Spring (M): J. N. Lee, W. M. Roan.

There being no other letters presented the Moderator announced that the Association would proceed to the election of its officers. Brothers Thames and Evans were appointed tellers to take and count the vote.— During the counting of the vote the Association engaged in singing several songs.

The tellers announced that Elder R. T. Wear was elected Moderator and Elder Jos. Shackelford, Clerk.

The Moderator returned thanks for the honor conferred, and asked the assistance of the brethren in conducting the business of the Association.

On motion, the order of business as printed in the minutes of last year was adopted.

PETITIONARY LETTERS.

On call for petitionary letters the Moderator announced that he had a letter from a new church near Courtland, Ala., called Oakland, which petitioned for membership in the Association, but there were no delegates present, and according to the constitution, it could not be admitted.

CORRESPONDENTS.

Elder J. M. Simpson was received as a correspondent from Gilliam Springs Association, also Elder P. M. Musgrove was received as a correspondent from Cullman Association.

On motion, the report of the Trustees of the Danville School was made the special order of business for the evening session.

The Moderator read an invitation from the pastor of the M. E. Church,

and Dr. A. R. Wilson, tendering the use of their house of worship to the Association.

On motion adjourned to meet at 7:30 o'clock to-night. Prayer by Elder F. C. David.

EVENING SESSION—7:30 P. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. J. Evans. The special order, the report of the Trustees of the Danville School was taken up, and the report was read by the Clerk. On motion to receive and spread the report on the Minutes, Bro. Shackelford addressed the Association in behalf of the school. He was followed by Bro. J. Evans, after which the motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE DANVILLE SCHOOL
TO THE MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION.

The Board of Trustees of the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School at Danville, Ala., beg leave to make this, their fifth annual report, to your body: The school closed its fourth session in June last, with a total enrollment of 122. This was an increase over the previous session of nearly 33 per cent. We had three graduates in the English course. The Commencement Exercises passed off successfully, with a larger attendance of visitors than we have ever had. The number of boarding pupils was increased over 55 per cent. Prof. D. F. Green having declined a re-election as President of the school, the trustees elected Rev. J. Bunyan Kilpatrick as President of the school, and Mrs. Ella Kilpatrick as Principal of the Primary and Preparatory Departments. Prof. T. H. Johnson, a graduate of the school, was elected Professor of Latin and Greek. Miss Susie Shackelford, also a graduate of the school, was elected Teacher of Music. Miss Bettie Burleson was selected by the President, with the approval of the Board, as Teacher of Art and the Guitar. Also, Rev. T. M. Thomas, Professor of Bookkeeping and Banking. The trustees also reduced the terms of tuition. They also made arrangements by which twenty boys can secure rooms in the college building, by the payment of 50 cents per month room rent—they furnishing their rooms. By this arrangement the expense of board can be reduced to from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per month. We refer you to Catalogue of School for information concerning the terms of tuition and the character of Prof. Kilpatrick as an educator. He is an experienced teacher, and comes to us most highly recommended. The other teachers are fully competent to perform the duties assigned them. The fifth session of the school commenced on the 6th of September. The opening exceeded our expectations. There were enrolled the first week sixty-five pupils. Up to this time, September 30th, we have eighty pupils enrolled, and the school is moving along smoothly. We have the promise of a number of students who will enter later. We think our boarding patronage will exceed that of last session. We think the prospect is good to increase the number of pupils this session over last at least from 25 to 30 per cent. Our growth is slow, but sure. Our school is gaining reputation as a christian school, and for thoroughness in its instruction. We are more and more impressed with the conviction that the Baptists of North Alabama need such a school as we are trying to make this. We are striving to build up a christian school, where the Bible is taught and christian principles are instilled into the minds of the students. A thorough school, where no mere surface work

is done; an economical school, where the prices of tuition and board will enable poor boys and girls to secure an education, and yet not so low as not to give the teachers a living. Our motto is "Live and Let Live." Patrons cannot expect teachers to teach for nothing, and boarding house keepers to board for nothing. We have put board and tuition at the lowest possible rates to sustain ourselves. We do not propose to do shoddy work, nor to give shoddy board in order to get a reputation for cheapness. Cheap goods are generally dearest in the end. During the past session we have had five young ministers in attendance, four from Muscle Shoals Association and one from the Big Bear Creek Association. We have, up to this time, three young ministers, and expect more. One of the primary objects of this school is to educate young ministers, to help them, and prepare those who may wish to go further than our course of study will carry them, to enter the higher classes of Howard College. We can do this with much less expense than it can be done at the Howard, as board is much cheaper—at least 25 per cent. cheaper. We give them the same instruction that they receive in the Freshman and Sophomore classes of that school. Your Association has been sending its ministerial students to our school. We trust you will continue to do so. Our Board at the last session, passed a resolution, to which we desire to call your attention. This resolution was in the nature of a request. That Associations that may assist ministerial students, be requested to let a part of their contributions for this purpose be applied to paying one half of the tuition of each student. As we have no permanent fund, out of which we can pay stated salaries to our teachers, and they have to depend on the tuition fees for their support, it is manifestly unjust to ask them to bear so great a burden as giving all the tuition to ministerial students. Last session our teachers gave over \$120.00 to ministerial students in the way of tuition. The denomination ought to bear at least half of the expense. The Board also passed a resolution looking to the raising of an endowment of \$25,000.00 for the President's chair. When an effort will be made to raise this amount, has not been determined as yet. We mention it in this report that our brethren may know that your Board has this matter under consideration, and that we contemplate placing the institution upon a firmer basis. The great need we have now is a better patronage from the Baptists of North Alabama. We think our school deserves the patronage of Baptists especially, as it is a Baptist school. We have good teachers, and our course of study is equal to any school of the same grade in the state. Why not patronize your own school? The term of the following trustees expires at this session of your body, viz: Rev. Joseph Shackelford, Dr. J. M. Kitchens and T. L. Baker. Their places will have to be filled, either by re-election or the appointment of others. Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH SHACKELFORD, President of Board.

T. L. BAKER, Secretary.

Danville, Alabama, September 30th, 1897.

Bro. M. Stamps offered the following, which was adopted: "Whereas, the brethren of the M. E. Church have so kindly tendered us the use of their church during the present session of the Association, therefore Resolved, That we express our hearty appreciation of their generous offer, assuring them that we will use it if we have occasion to do so."

COMMITTEES.

The Moderator announced the following committees to report at this session:

On Devotional Exercises—Pastor and Deacons of Hartselle Church, with J. T. Wallace and John A. Thomason.

On State Religion—J. E. Weaver, Frank Chenault, J. H. Butler.

On Deceased Ministers—J. O. A. Pace, J. Evans, R. L. Quinn.

On Documents—J. D. McClanahan, T. R. Bragg, J. L. Richey.

On Finance—C. A. Womble, G. H. Hughes J. A. Thomason.

On motion, the Association adjourned to 8:30 Friday morning.

Prayer by Bro. T. R. Bragg.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 8:30 A. M.

The Devotional Exercises were led by Bro. F. C. David, after which the Moderator called the Association to order. The Minutes of yesterday were read and approved. On motion of Bro. A. J. Thames, the Moderator was authorized to appoint members of Standing Committees in place of the brethren who were absent. Delayed letters were handed in and read and names of delegates enrolled as follows:

Hartselle Church—J. D. McClanahan, J. W. Loggins, D. A. Burleson.

Hillsboro—W. A. Aycock.

Center Grove—Wm. Ryan, E. W. Ratliffe.

Salem—Letter, no delegate.

Mt. Zion (M)—A. J. Patterson, J. W. Thompson, J. T. Tapscott.

Elder J. A. Howard, of the Alabama Baptist, was received as a representative of that paper.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The clerk read the report of the Executive Board, which was ordered to be spread upon the minutes, as follows:

DEAR BRETHREN:—Your Board held its first meeting October 23rd, 1896. Members present, Bros. O. D. Gibson, J. G. Orr, W. D. Irvin, R. M. Simpson, J. M. Shoemaker and J. M. Sandlin. Bro. O. D. Gibson was elected Chairman and Bro. J. M. Sandlin, Secretary. At the meeting Elder J. M. Roberts was employed to do the missionary work in the territory north of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, between the river and the railroad, and pastoral work for the churches in that territory. He to receive one hundred dollars for his work. Elder Jos. Shackelford was employed to do missionary work throughout the Association at a salary of \$30 per month, for time actually employed in such work, to commence the first of November, or as soon thereafter as convenient. It was also ordered by the Board that all persons employed by the Board be requested to make monthly reports of their work to the Board, which has been promptly complied with. The Board also appropriated \$10 to buy tracts for distribution by the general missionary. The second meeting of the Board was held, February 25, 1897.—Members present, Bros. W. D. and H. B. Irvin, Dr. R. M. Simpson, J. M. Shoemaker and J. M. Sandlin. Bro. H. B. Irvin was made tempo-

rary chairman. At this meeting Elder J. O. A. Pace was employed as missionary to work in the western portion of the Association, at a salary of \$30 per month, he to commence work the first of June. At this meeting it was announced that Brother O. D. Gibson, our chairman, had departed this life. The secretary was authorized to write to all the members of the Board to meet on the first of May, which was done, but no quorum met, and we have been unable to have a meeting since. In the meantime another member of the Board, Dr. R. M. Simpson, departed this life. An effort has been made to secure a quorum, but unsuccessful. We would suggest that the Executive Board be appointed so as to have as many in the same locality as possible; it is impossible to get a quorum, located as they are at present. We refer you for information as to the work that has been done to the reports of our missionaries. The Board is pained to announce that two of our most efficient and active members have departed this life, Bros. O. D. Gibson and R. M. Simpson. Bro. Gibson, the chairman of the Board, died on the 24th day of December, 1896. We have sorely felt his loss. He was active and energetic in the work committed to his hands, and took a great interest in the work of the Board. Dr. R. M. Simpson died on the 24th of April, 1897. He was generally prompt in his attendance upon the meetings of the Board up to his last sickness, and took an active interest in the work.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. SANDLIN,
Secretary,

H. B. IRVIN,
Chairman, pro. tem.

VACANCIES IN STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Moderator announced the appointment of the following brethren to fill vacancies in standing committees:

On State Missions, F. C. David.

On Education—J. Evans, Marion Briscoe, J. N. Bragg, James Reed.

An invitation was read from Prof. Riddle, of the Hartselle College, inviting the Association to visit that school.

Bro. J. I. Stockton moved that a committee be appointed to notice the deaths of Bros. O. D. Gibson and Dr. R. M. Simpson, members of the Executive Board, committee to consist of Bro. W. D. Irwin and two others, to be appointed by the Moderator. The motion was adopted, and the Moderator appointed Bros. J. G. A. Pace and J. J. Churchwell as the other two members.

CORRESPONDENTS TO OTHER BODIES.

The following brethren were appointed messengers to the bodies with whom we correspond:

To Liberty Association—J. L. Stockton, J. M. Roberts, Jos. Shackelford.

Florence Association—J. O. A. Pace, C. A. Womble.

Gilliam Springs Association—J. E. Weaver, W. M. Roan.

Colbert Association—J. Evans, J. O. A. Pace, Jos. Shackelford, J. C. Orr.

Bear Creek Association—J. S. Gibson, R. T. Wear, J. N. Bragg, J. Evans, J. O. A. Pace.

Cullman Association—J. C. Orr, J. S. Gibson, W. T. Cobbs.

State Convention—Jos. Shackelford, M. Briscoe, M. Stamps, A. J.

Thames, J. A. Thomason J. O. A. Pace, J. S. Gibson, J. Evans, E. D. Stephenson, R. T. Wear, J. C. Orr.

It was moved and adopted, that any member of this body who shall be present at the meetings of any of the bodies with whom we correspond, is authorized to represent this Association.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.—Bro. M. Briscoe was elected a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention and Bro. T. H. Johnson as alternate.

NOTE BY THE CLERK.—Bro. Jos. Shackelford was at first elected delegate to the S. B. Convention and Bro. Briscoe, alternate, but Bro. Shackelford afterwards resigned, and then the above action was taken on Saturday

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The report of the Board of Ministerial Education was read by the Clerk, and on motion was received and ordered to be spread on the minutes, as follows:

DEAR BRETHREN:—The first meeting of your Board for the past Associational year, was held at Danville, October 8, 1896. Members present were Bros. J. G. Orr, Joseph Shackelford, J. T. Wallace, and James Sandlin—a quorum. The Secretary reported that about \$245 00 was pledged at the Association for Ministerial Education, besides a special subscription by the friends of bro. J. L. Richey for his support, amounting to \$850 00. The application for aid from Bro. J. L. Richey of Mt. Zion church, and Bro. Emmet Tubbs of Town Creek church, were laid before the Board and considered. The name of Bro. R. L. Quinn, whom the Board has been helping, was also presented. The name of Rev. Albert Briscoe was also presented as a worthy brother and promising young preacher. The Board appropriated \$70, each, to Bros. Richey, Tubbs and Quinn, and \$35 to Bro. Albert Briscoe. Subsequently, Bro. Briscoe declined to take anything. At the time the appropriation was made, Bro. Briscoe was a member of Cullman church, but as we understood designed making Falkville his home, and had accepted the pastoral care of Hopewell church. All of these brethren attended the Danville school during the last session. The Board has had some difficulty in collecting the pledges. At the beginning of the year we were confronted with a debt of about \$28 78, which had to come out of the first money collected at the Association. During the year the Secretary has made an earnest effort to collect the pledges. He has succeeded in collecting \$124 42 in addition to \$28 79 turned over to him by W. D. Irwin, treasurer of the Association. There has been paid the following amounts to the brethren named, leaving a balance due them as stated:

To R. L. Quinn,	Paid \$39 09	Balance due, \$30 71
“ J. L. Richey,	“ 48 35	“ “ 21 65
“ Emmet Tubbs,	“ 38 30	“ “ 31 70

Total amount due, - - - - - \$86 16

Of pledges by churches and individuals unpaid, we have about \$100,00—enough to pay our indebtedness. We trust the churches and individuals who pledged, will send up the amount of their pledges to the Association. Bro. R. L. Quinn, one of our beneficiaries, graduated at the last commencement of the Danville school. Whether it is his purpose to go on further with his education and attend Howard College,

we do not know. We think this would be the wiser plan. Your Board would suggest that it be impressed upon the minds of the brethren that the amount pledged for Ministerial Education, should be paid as early as possible after the meeting of the Association. The Treasurer presents his report, which is approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

J. G. ORR, President of Board.

JOS. SHACKELFORD, Secretary.

REPORT OF TREASURER OF BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

JOS. SHACKELFORD, Treasurer,

In account with the Board of Ministerial Education.

1896.

Oct. 3.	To cash from W. D. Irwin, Treasurer of Association, ..	\$ 29 79
" 3.	T. H. Johnson, Pledge,	5 00
" 3.	George Jackson,	5 00
" 3.	Collected at Association, A. L. Moody, ..	5 00
" 3.	" " " J. C. Vincent, ..	7 50
" 3.	" " " W. T. Cobbs \$1, ..	
	W. M. Jolly, \$1.00,	2 00
" 3.	Hat collection,	5 64
Nov. 19.	J. E. Tubbs,	1 00
Dec. 16.	Russellville Sunday School,	1 50
" 16.	Mt. Nebo Church, (F. C.) per Wm. East, ..	8 40
Oct. 3.	A. J. Thames, \$1., Mrs. Mat Masterson, \$1, ..	2 00
" 3.	Association not included in above,	1 50
Dec. 29.	Salem Church, per R. T. Wear,	2 10
" 29.	Macedonia Church, per R. T. Wear,	2 12
" 29.	Mrs. Lina Wear, per L. A. Wear,	1 00
" 31.	Moulton Church,	5 00
" 31.	Macedonia Church at Association,	60

1897.

Jan. 8.	Okalona Church, per W. D. Irwin,	2 85
" 10.	Liberty " Collections,	2 00
" 21.	Enon " per Bro. West,	1 25
" 31.	Trinity " J. I. Stockton,	60
Feb. 13.	Hopewell " A. Briscoe,	2 25
Mar. 7.	Tuscumbia Church,	2 05
" 8.	Frank King,	1 00
" 8.	Pleasant Hill Church,	2 00
" 8.	Trinity Church, per J. I. Stockton,	40
" 13.	Mt. Hope Church, per R. T. Wear,	5 00
" 13.	Town Creek Church, per " "	10 00
" 13.	Danville " J. S.,	5 00
" 13.	Enon " J. T. Wallace,	1 00
" 14.	Hopewell " A. Briscoe,	1 75
" 25.	Russellville Sunday School,	3 50
" 29.	L. M. Wear \$1.00, Mrs. W. D. Bynum \$1, ..	2 00
" 29.	First Church, New Decatur,	5 50
" 29.	Town Creek Sunday School,	2 50
Apr. 3.	Danville Church, per D. F. Green,	1 00
" 23.	Falkville " W. T. Cobbs,	60
" 24.	James Ratliffe, Cave Spring Church,	1 00
" 24.	J. W. Sandlin, pledge,	5 00
" 24.	Moulton Church, per W. D. Irwin,	4 00
" 30.	Trinity Church,	1 50

1897.			
June	To cash from Okolona	2 15	
"	Bro. Cowan, pledge, Town Creek Church,	1 25	
July 1.	Shady Grave Church,	1 00	
Apr. 1.	Mt. Zion (L),	3 00	

\$155 20

CONTRA.

1896.			
Oct. 3.	By cash paid T. H. Johnson,	\$ 22 12	
" 3.	R. L. Quinn,	3 50	
" 3.	" " to J. Shackelford, for board,	3 16	
Sept. 25.	R. L. Quinn, J. S.,	8 00	
Oct. 31.	J. L. Richey,	3 00	
Nov. 3.	" " for books,	2 45	
" 19.	J. E. Tubbs,	10 00	
" 26.	J. L. Richey,	5 00	
Dec. 16.	R. L. Quinn, board,	14 00	
" 23.	J. L. Richey,	3 00	

1897.			
Jan. 1.	J. L. Richey,	5 00	
" 8.	J. E. Tubbs,	5 00	
" 30.	" " to Mr. Speake,	50	
Feb. 8.	J. L. Richey,	5 00	
" 10.	J. E. Tubbs, per Mr. Speake,	1 80	
Mar. 8.	J. L. Richey,	4 50	
" 8.	J. E. Tubbs,	3 50	
" 13.	R. L. Quinn,	5 00	
" 13.	J. L. Richey,	5 00	
" 13.	J. E. Tubbs,	5 00	
Apr. 3.	J. L. Richey,	5 00	
" 3.	J. E. Tubbs,	5 00	
" 3.	J. L. Richey, per D. F. Green,	1 00	
" 3.	R. L. Quinn,	2 50	
" 25.	R. L. Quinn, to J. Shackelford,	2 50	
" 30.	J. L. Richey, \$2.50, J. E. Tubbs, \$2.50,	5 00	
" 30.	J. L. Richey,	5 00	
" 30.	C. Speake, for J. E. Tubbs,	5 00	
" 31.	R. L. Quinn, for Shackelford,	2 69	
June 3.	" " " "	3 40	
July 1.	" " " "	1 00	
	For postage and postal cards,	68	
	J. L. Richey, on order to J. G. Orr,	1 90	

\$155 20

Respectfully submitted,

JOS. SHACKELFORD, Treasurer.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARIES.

The Moderator called for the report of missionaries. Elder J. O. A. Pace made his report as follows:

Report of J. O. A. Pace for work done in Muscle Shoals Association:
 DEAR BRETHREN: I was appointed by your Executive Board to labor in the western boundary of the Association, beginning June 1st, on a salary of \$30 00 per month. The following is my report:

Miles traveled, 724

Family visits made,	123
Sermons preached,	66
Exhortations delivered,	8
Sunday School addresses made,	3
Days actually employed,	97½
Copies of bibles and testaments sold,	116
Copies of Bibles and testaments given away,	118
Received from Mt. Zion Church,	\$1 55
Fifth Sunday meeting, Siloam Church,	1 75
Received from William Irwin, treasurer,	\$ 66 20
Balance due me,	23 00
Respectfully submitted,	

J. A. O. PACE.

Elder Jos. Shackelford made his report as follows, which was received :

**REPORT OF JOS. SHACKELFORD, EVANGELIST AND COLPORTER FOR THE
MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION.**

DEAR BRETHREN: I was employed by your Executive Board to work as an evangelist and colporter within the territory of the Muscle Shoals Association, at a salary of \$40 per month for time actually engaged in the work. The Board furnished me \$5 00 with which to purchase tracts, bibles and testaments for free distribution, where I thought it was proper to do so. Other books, bibles and testaments, I furnished myself with my own means. I commenced work on the 22nd of November, 1896. The following is a consolidated report of my work up to date. I have made monthly reports of my work to the Board as required:

Time employed in days, 159—months, 5 and 9 days.	1291
Miles traveled,	125
Sermons preached,	8
Exhortations and addresses,	168
Visits made,	10
Prayer meetings attended,	
Books sold, value,	\$34 00
Bibles, testaments and tracts, donated,	5 20
Money collected for Ministerial Education,	32 80
Money collected for missions,	78 20
This money for missions was collected from the following churches:	
Danville church,	\$29 53
J. Ratliffe, Cave Spring church,	1 00
Central, New Decatur,	4 59
Liberty Church,	50
Pleasant Grove,	5 00
Macedonia, in Franklin,	75
Trinity church,	\$ 1 30
Somerville church,	4 43
Mt. Pisgah,	50
Hillsboro,	7 77
1st church, Decatur,	11 83
A. L. Moody, correction	
in F. O. report,	5 00
Danville S. School,	1 50
Joseph Shackelford, pledge,	5 00

Total collected, \$78 70

Total amount for services for 5 months and 9 days,	\$212 00
Received from W. D. Irwin, Treasurer, on this,	170 00
Cash in my hands,	32 59

202 59
Balance due me, 9 41
\$212 00

The money collected by me for Ministerial Education, and mentioned in this report, will appear in my report as Treasurer of the Board of Ministerial Education, credited to the church, which paid the same. My work has been about on the same plan as that of last year, that is, visiting the churches and trying to arouse them to more activity in the Master's cause. I think the interest in religious matters, both among the members of our churches and among the people generally, is much better this year than it was last year. Better congregations have met me at my appointments, as a general thing. There does not seem to be so much apathy and indifference upon the part of the church members. More money has been collected for Missions and Ministerial Education. There have been several new houses of worship built, and some very good meetings. Most of the churches in the Association have had good meetings. Their letters will show the ingathering. I have visited all the churches in the Association except two or three. I had appointments for these, but for various reasons did not get to them. To one I did not go, because of illness; to another, because I understood that my appointment was not circulated. I desire to call your attention to several points where I think the Association might profitably spend some money in maintaining preaching: Center Grove, in the Eastern part of Morgan county, has had no regular preaching this year. They have a good house of worship, and in a good community. The membership is small, and they need help to maintain regular preaching. This church occupies a central position, so far as population is concerned, and should not be permitted to go down if it can be helped. Fifty dollars spent here to supplement the salary of an efficient pastor would be money well expended, in my opinion. The Friendship Church needs help; their house of worship was burned last year. They have built them a new one; it is not finished, but they hold meetings in it. They had a glorious meeting there a few months ago, and the pastor baptized over thirty-five. There was a large addition to the church. Financially, the church is weak, and ought to be helped. Friendship Church ought to be assisted. It is in a better condition now than it has been for years. Bro. Marion Briscoe has been its pastor for two years, and it has made some progress under his care. It is very weak, however. If the salary of its pastor was supplemented this year I think it would be able to stand by itself. It is on rising ground. A new church constituted a short time since near Courtland, ought to be assisted. I have preached at Flower Hill school house, near Hillsboro, this year. We have had good congregations. Bro. Roberts and myself conducted a meeting of several days there about the first of August. We had fine congregations, and I think good was done. It would be well to have this point cultivated. After two years experience in the mission work, I am convinced that the best policy for this Association to pursue in cultivating the large field within our territory, is to assist weak churches that are unable to sustain efficient pastors, where there is a good prospect for growth, and to cultivate a few prominent points that are destitute of Baptist preaching; and in the summer and fall months, say from June to the last of November, have one or two missionaries or evangelists in the field who will hold meetings in destitute localities, or with weak churches. I am satisfied that this will be the most effective mode of doing our missionary work. I preached in Courtland for several months, but discontinued my appointments there after making a fair trial, as I thought, I had no house that we could call our own. The Presbyterian and Methodist brethren very kindly offered me the use of their houses of worship. I preached in both of them. If we ever do anything there to build up

the Baptist cause, we must have a place of worship of our own, where we can have services on the Sabbath. I trust the way will be opened before long, when we can secure a preaching place. I assisted Bro. Weaver in holding a meeting with Rocky Creek church, in connection with Bro. J. D. McClanahan. We had a good meeting. There were a number of conversions, and eight or nine additions to the church.

Respectfully submitted,

JOS. SHACKELFORD.

Danville, Ala., Sept. 28, 1897.

Elder J. M. Roberts made his report as follows, which was received :

I was employed by your Board to work north of the M. & C. Railroad as pastor of Liberty, Mt. Stanley, Mt. Pleasant, and Mission Grove churches, and to preach at such other points as I thought best, and for which they agreed to pay me \$100 00. I began work on the 7th of November, 1896, and have preached one hundred sermons, delivered two missionary lectures, two prayer meeting talks, organized two Sunday Schools, assisted in the ordination of three deacons, made 84 visits for religious conversation, witnessed 12 conversions, baptized 17, traveled, by estimate, 565 miles, collected for missions from

Liberty church, 1897.....	\$ 6 76
Mt. Stanley, 1896,	4 25
" 1897.....	10 00
Mt. Pleasant,.....	5 00

Total..... 26 01
100 00

\$ 73 00

Respectfully.

J. M. ROBERTS

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Reports of standing committees on missions were then called for.—The following reports were then read, and the subject of missions was made the special order for 7:30 o'clock to-night, on motion of Brother Thames.

Report on State mission was read by Bro. F. C. David. Report on Foreign missions was read by the Clerk. Report on Associational missions was read by Bro. J. I. Stockton.

Report on Home missions was read by the Clerk.

Bro. Howard, agent for the Alabama Baptist, was permitted to present the claims of that paper to the Association, which he did in a good speech full of good sense and humor.

On motion the subject of Education was made the special order of business the first thing after dinner.

A letter from Lebanon church was read and the names of delegates enrolled, as follows: W. H. Jenkins, H. C. Barkley, and G. W. Hardin.

On motion, adjourned to 1:30. p. m. Prayer by Bro. J. A. Howard.

AFTER NOON SESSION.

After singing, and prayer by Bro. W. T. Cobbs, the Moderator called the Association to order.

Bro. D. A. Burleson called the attention of the Association to the fact that the President of the Hartselle College, Prof. Riddle, had invited the Association to visit his school, which invitation had been overlooked. He moved that a committee of 12 be appointed by the Moderator to visit the Hartselle College at 4, p. m., to-day, in compliance with the request of the President.

The motion was unanimously adopted, and the Moderator appointed the following brethren on said committee: J. E. Weaver, J. S. Gibson, A. J. Thames, J. I. Stockton, F. C. David, J. Evans, J. B. Kilpatrick, J. B. Sherrill, M. A. Ratliff, R. B. Day, J. R. Witt, T. H. Sullivan.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The report on Ministerial Education was read by Bro. W. T. Cobbs.

While waiting for the report on education, Bro. J. B. Sherrill asked the privilege of speaking to the Association in behalf of Bro. W. T. Cobbs. He stated that the Falkville church and people had been trying to build a home for Bro. Cobbs. It was not completed, and Bro. Cobbs needed help to finish it. He asked the brethren to help him. A collection was then taken for this purpose, amounting to \$5 83.

The subject of Ministerial Education was then taken up and discussed by Bros. Jos. Shackelford, J. M. Roberts, J. A. Howard, M. Stamps, A. J. Thames and F. C. David, after which pledges were taken from the churches, Sabbath schools, and individuals, and a cash collection, amounting in all to \$200 16, as follows:

PLEDGES FROM CHURCHES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Bethel (M).....	\$ 2 00	Central New Decatur.....	\$ 5 00
Center Grove, per Mr. Ratliff	2 00	Cherry Hill.....	5 00
Danville.....	10 00	Enon.....	2 50
Harmony, per J. A. Walker,		Hillsboro.....	5 00
pd. \$1.....	2 00	Hartselle.....	5 00
Hopewell.....	5 00	Mt. Zion, (L.).....	2 00
Macedonia (F.).....	2 00	Mt. Hope.....	6 00
Mt. Nebo, (F.).....	10 00	Moulton.....	10 00
Mt. Pisgah, pd. F. C.,.....	5 00	Falkville.....	1 00
New Prospect.....	1 00	Okolona.....	5 00
New Decatur, Ist.....	10 00	Okolona, per J. C. Reed, pd.,	1 00
Pleasant Grove.....	5 00	Russellville.....	5 00
Somerville.....	2 50	Shady Grove.....	1 00
Pleasant Hill (M).....	2 00	Pleasant Hill, (L.).....	1 00
Trinity.....	2 50	Town Creek.....	10 00
Oave Springs, per J. Ratliff,	1 00		
			\$64 50
	\$62 00		

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Central New Decatur.....	\$ 5 00	Moulton.....	\$ 5 00
Danville.....	2 50	Mt. Zion (L), per C. C. Willis,	1 00
Hartselle.....	2 50	Tawn Creek, per R. T. Wear,	2 50
Russellville Ladies' Aid Society.....	5 00		
			\$8 50
	\$15 00		

INDIVIDUALS.

J. M. Roberts.....	\$ 1 00	Jos. Shackelford.....	\$ 5 00
A. W. Briscoe, pd.....	50	W. T. Cobbs.....	2 00
R. L. Quinn.....	50	A Brother.....	10 00
J. T. Wallace.....	1 00	J. H. Norwood.....	1 00
J. A. Walker.....	1 00	W. M. Roan, pd.....	1 00
Willia Orr.....	1 00	J. R. Witt.....	1 00
F. C. David and wife.....	2 00	Mssa Ethel and Sallie Rob-	
H. E. Kelly.....	2 00	erts, by Father.....	2 00
Elsie E. Gibson.....	1 00	W. G. Williamson.....	1 00
Miss Mertie L. Johnson.....	25	Fannie Patterson.....	2 00
Hat collections.....	5 41	Miss Hutcherson, pd.....	1 00
		Falkville, per Prof. Hayes, pd	1 00
	\$23 66		

Total from churches.....	\$26 50
Total from Sunday Schools.....	\$126 00
Total from Individuals.....	50 16

Total pledges and cash, for Ministerial Education.....\$200 16

[NOTE:—The pledges taken on Friday and Saturday are put together in the above.]

The Report on Education was then read by Bro. J. Evans, and on motion the subject of Education was made the special order for to-morrow at 10:00, a. m.

Adjourned to meet at 7:30, p. m. Prayer by Bro. P. M. Musgrove.

EVENING SESSION.

After singing, and prayer by Bro. W. T. Cobbs, the Association was called to order. On motion of Bro. J. Evans, speeches were limited to 10 minutes. The subject of Missions was then discussed by Brethren F. C. David, J. O. A. Pace, J. A. Howard, P. M. Musgrove and Mack Stamps, after which, on motion, Bro. Shackelford took the pledges from churches, Sunday Schools and individuals.

PLEDGES FROM CHURCHES FOR MISSIONS.

Bethel (M). F. C.,.....	\$ 6 00	Central New Decatur.....	\$30 00
Central Grove.....	3 00	Danville.....	50 00
Enon.....	15 00	Falkville.....	10 00
Harmony.....	6 57	Hillsboro.....	15 00
Hopewell, \$5 A's M. and \$5		Lebanon.....	5 00
for F. M.....	10 00	Isbell.....	5 00
Hartselle.....	53 00	Mt. Zion (L.).....	8 00
Macedonia (F).....	13 00	Mt. Nebo, (M.).....	5 00
Mt. Nebo.....	9 00	Moulton.....	10 00
Mt. Hope.....	21 00	New Prospect.....	6 00
Mt. Pisgah, pd. F. C.,.....	3 00	New Decatur.....	65 00
New Friendship.....	5 00	Salem.....	5 00
Pleasant Grove, pd. F. C.,.....	11 20	Somerville.....	5 00
Russellville.....	20 00	Pleasant Hill, (L.).....	5 00
Shady Grove.....	7 50	Trinity, pd. F. C.,.....	10 55
Town Creek.....	20 00	Okolona.....	15 00

\$340 27

\$259 55

PLEDGES FROM SUNDAY SCHOOLS FOR MISSIONS.

Central New Decatur.....	\$ 5 00	Danville.....	\$ 5 00
Moulton.....	5 00	Russellville.....	5 00
Town Creek.....	2 50	Russellville Sun Beams.....	2 00
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$12 50		\$12 00

PLEDGES FROM INDIVIDUALS.

A. W. Briscoe.....	\$ 5 00	W. R. Frazier.....	\$ 2 50
J. O. A. Face.....	1 00	J. H. Norwood.....	1 00
J. A. Walker.....	1 00	Ladies' Aid So'ty. Hartselle,	1 00
Miss A. F. Johnson.....	1 00	Ethel Johnson.....	1 00
Mrs. J. A. Thomason.....	1 00	Mrs. J. C. Hartselle.....	85
Dr. J. M. Kitchens. (F. M.)..	2 50	Hat collection.....	3 86

	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total from churches.....	\$11 50		\$9 71
Total from Sunday Schools.....			\$499 82
Total from Individuals.....			24 50
Total hat collection.....			17 35
Cash collection on Sunday.....			3 86
			<hr/>
			7 91

Total from all sources..... \$553 44

After the pledges were taken, the reports on Associational, State, Home and Foreign Missions, were each adopted as follows:

REPORT ON ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

We, your committee on Associational Missions, report that in our opinion a very great deal depends upon the Mission work done in our bounds. We believe that all other Mission work, in a great degree, rests upon the work done in our midst. We are pleased with the work done in the past year by our missionaries. We believe that when our people see the work and its results, they are more ready to give to the Mission cause.

We earnestly suggest that the place recommended by Dr. Shackelford be carried out.

Respectfully submitted,

J. I. STOCKTON, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board assumed its labors last year with a debt of \$8,000 and an obligation of \$5,700 resting upon it. The debt was increased to \$23,000, plus the obligation, by the 1st of January. But notwithstanding all this, its labors have been greatly blessed; as we shall soon see. Churches have been built, houses of worship repaired, and benighted souls have been led from the bonds of iniquity and shackles of sin into the resplendent liberty of God. The work done; as the Conventional report shows, there have been 372 missionaries employed; weeks of labor, 11,075; churches and stations 1,963; sermons and addresses, 48,508; prayer meetings, 11,237; baptisms, 4,709; received by letter, 4,746—total additions 9,455; churches constituted, 139; houses of worship built, 57; houses of worship improved, 129; amount expended on houses of worship \$52,040; Sunday Schools organized, 313; teachers and pupils, 10,725; Bibles and testaments distributed, 2,837; tracts distributed, (pages) 645,346. We see from this, that notwithstanding the financial embarrassment which the Board has undergone,

its work has been glorious. And, as members of this body, we should give our hearty co-operation to its support. For there is much yet to be done. Therefore, let us realize that we are co-workers in the accomplishment of Christ's mission—the redemption of men. God's hand will direct each penny we may give.

T. H. JOHNSON, Chairman.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

In presenting this report we find occasion for thanksgiving to Him whom we serve, and whose we are. Among the last utterances of the State Mission Journal, by our efficient Secretary, are these: "Never did the work of this Board promise better things for the Master's glory and the building up of the body of Christ in these parts. The outlook in our beloved State was never so bright and promising." But the bright and promising outlook is at the present. It remains to be seen what the churches will do from the first of September until the November Convention at East Lake, as to whether the outlook will still be bright. Our State Board is encumbered with vast and varied interests for our beloved cause, and to carry out successfully what has been undertaken, calls loudly for the sympathy, prayers and help of all our churches. We do not think the Board has undertaken too much. Let each individual member of the Association feel his personal responsibility to aid in this momentous work, that our Board may undertake yet greater things for God.

Respectfully submitted,

F. C. DAVID.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

In treating this subject I design to show: 1st. That missions is the spirit of the word of God. Our Saviour was sent into the world; sent from the heights of Heaven to the low grounds of sorrow, which lie in the region and shadow of death, which implies a great distance, for He says, "I came down from Heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me."—(John 5:38). Again, He says, "For the son of man is come to seek and save the lost." The first of these passages shows great natural distance, "down from Heaven;" the other shows great moral distance, as expressed in the words, "the lost." Now, put the two together, and they convey the idea of a Foreign Missionary. 2nd. When the Church of Jerusalem was so greatly persecuted that they could not remain in the city, therefore, they that were scattered abroad, went everywhere preaching the word, "Then Phillip went down to the City of Samaria and preached Christ unto them." That was certainly preaching to an uninformed people, and was therefore a Mission work.

3rd. Saul of Tarsus afterwards called Paul, the apostle, and was converted on his way to Damascus, and the Lord said of him: "For he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles and Kings and the Children of Israel."—(Acts 9, 15). This man spent his life in preaching the gospel, and in traveling by land and sea, establishing churches and writing epistles, and finally died a martyr to the cause. We have but to read his life, to see his Mission work.

4th. Let us notice in the second place, what has been done in modern times in the foreign field. We clip from the minutes of Southern Baptist Convention, the following good news: "There has been a great increase in the last twenty years. In 1877 we had sixteen missionaries and thirty-two native assistants, making forty-eight workers in all. The contributions at that time were \$32,276. In 1897, we report 190 missionaries and native assistants; 660 baptisms; 4,324 members, and

\$125,681.99 contributions. This is a great increase, for which we should thank God and take courage. I saw a quotation the other day from the *Missionary Review*, of June, 1896, which stated, "that in the United States, there was one minister to every eight hundred persons; and in England, one minister to every nine hundred souls. But in the foreign fields, how different! In Japan, one to every 250,000. In India, one to every 300,000. In Africa, one to every 400,000. In China, one to every 700,000. With these facts before us, we are bound to see that the destitution is great. And although this is the closing decade of the nineteenth century, yet there are thousands and millions of people who know nothing of the Bible and the way of salvation, as taught by our Blessed Redeemer. The gospel is preached in the foreign field by only a few, and to comparatively few people, while the great mass of the people are in "outer darkness, and the region and shadow of death."

In the third and last place, we inquire, what is our duty to do for the foreign field? We answer as follows:

1st. Consider that these heathen people were made by the same divine hand that made us. Therefore, that they, like we, were made for God's glory, and we are all members of the great human family, and are traveling to death and eternity alike; that their souls are as precious to them as ours are to us. They are a part of the world which "God so loved as to give His only begotten son, that whosoever believed on Him should not perish." And as Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man, then they are included as well as we.

Pray for these heathen people. Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth more laborers into the harvest."—(Luke 10, 2). Then we should pray for more laborers. Joel, the prophet, said: "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe."—(Joel 3:13). There is an active doing demanded. The Saviour said: "Go teach all nations, go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."—(Matt. 28:18). Here is a great work to be done. We should all be engaged in this work. Let some go in person and all the rest of us go by prayer, sympathy and contributions.

Submitted,

J. GUNN.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

OCTOBER 2nd 1897, 8:30, a. m.

The devotional services were conducted by Rev. J. B. Kilpatrick, prayer by R. T. Wear.

The Moderator called the Association to order.

On motion, the subject of the Baptist orphanage at Evergreen was made the special order at 11, a. m.; or immediately after the subject of education was disposed of.

Bro. J. I. Stockton was permitted to make a statement concerning a monument to Elder J. Speer, deceased, erected by Bro. Daniel Orr, deceased. Bro. Stockton stated that Bro. Daniel Orr placed a monument over the grave of Elder John Speer, expecting to secure aid from the churches. Bro. Orr died this year, and a part of the debt is still due and unpaid. This debt ought to be paid by us. He moved that we now raise the balance of the debt. The motion was carried and a collection

was taken amounting to \$14.50, which was enough to liquidate the debt.

The subject of education was then taken up and discussed by Bro. J. B. Kilpatrick, after which additional pledges were taken for Ministerial education, which are incorporated in the list of pledges already given. The report on ministerial education was then adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The subject of education, generally, is to-day, receiving more attention, perhaps, than at any period of the past. People in almost every community are waking up to the realization of the great need of educating their children. Well, since this is true, beyond question, should we not as a denomination, see to it that our ministers, to keep pace with this progress, be educated? Yes, and yea, that they should be well educated. While we would not say one word disparagingly of our brethren who have not had educational advantages, for indeed, they have done such a grand work, and to-day, they are doing such noble work, but they, one and all, realize that the time is on us that we must send out our brethren well prepared to meet the great questions that confront us. When the Lord TRULY lays his hands on a man to go teach, we ought to lend a helping hand towards giving him an education, at least give him a start, then with a sound body and good will, he will go on. We trust that the young brethren whom the Lord has called to preach, will look about them, see the vast fields of work, and the great necessity of knowing the truth, will work earnestly and zealously to prepare themselves for their great life work. We hope this body will do something to encourage this grand cause, that it may do something to help our young brethren who are struggling to get through the course.

W. T. COBBE,
Chairman.

The report on Education was also adopted as follows:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Education is in the air; it rides on the high places of earth. Its researches to-day compass land and sea. All denominations are striving for the mastery, to elevate and ennoble the people. The arms of christianity are being tenderly thrown around the young of our generation. We, like others, are competing for the prize. Much has already been done in fitting up institutions of learning in the State, in which the youth of our day may find that happiness and peace that comes from christian education, and especially to education under the wise control of Godly men and women. We point you to the Judson, at Marion, as a superior school for young ladies. Howard College, at Birmingham, stands with open doors of welcome to its classic halls those who wish to excel in the higher branches of learning. The Baptist Collegiate Institute, at Danville, stands within easy reach of North Alabama students. Its course of study embraces a Normal Department for Teachers, a fine Literary Course, preparing students for advanced classes in the University or College. Music is taught by an accomplished teacher, and a Business Course is attached to suit those looking to a mercantile world for success. These schools are worthy the patronage of all good people. The wise will come and drink from the limped stream of christian culture, whose waters are pure and health-giving to the soul.

JAMES EVANS,
MARION BRISCOE,
T. W. McMILLAN.

The Committee submitted the following report, which was approved:
 Preaching to-night at Baptist Church, by Elder F. C. David.

A motion was made and adopted that the pastors and delegates of the churches be requested to collect at least enough from each church to pay for one desk for the Danville school. The amount necessary will be about \$2.50. This elicited some discussion, which manifested increased interest in the school. Money collected for this purpose is to be sent to the President of the Board of Trustees, Danville, Ala. The subject of the Orphan's Home was postponed until the afternoon session. On motion, adjourned to meet at 1:30 p. m. Prayer by Bro. J. M. Roberts.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. J. Evans. On motion of Bro. J. S. Gibson, the Moderator appointed a committee on Time and Place of Next Meeting, and Preacher of the Introductory Sermon, with an alternate, as follows: A. J. Thames, C. A. Womble and Mack Stamps.

The special order for this hour, the report of the committee on the Orphan's Home, at Evergreen, was then taken up and the report was read by Bro. A. J. Thames. On motion to adopt, the subject was discussed by Bros. Thames and J. Evans. Bro. M. Stamps offered a resolution, that the collection to-morrow be taken up for the Orphan's Home. Rev. J. Evans offered a substitute for the resolution: "That the pastors of churches be requested to take up a collection at their churches for the Orphan's Home." The substitute was adopted, and pastors will please notice the request and comply as soon as possible; as the Home needs help.

The report of the committee was adopted as follows: We, your committee on Orphan's Home, beg leave to offer the following: Under the efficient management of Bro. J. W. Stewart, the Home continues to do

good work. There has been in all, seventy children carried to Evergreen from different parts of the State since this work began. There are about thirty-five in the Home now, and quite as many have been adopted and given pleasant homes. The advantages these children have are good; they are taught to work, sent to Sunday School and to the Agricultural School. Every opportunity is offered to make them useful christian men and women. The Home is paid for, but money is needed to pay for food and clothing. We recommend that the churches give these faithful managers of the Home their co-operation, prayers and support. We would urge that the pastors hold children's services and instruct the young people concerning this great work and they will give to this needy cause.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. THAMES,
J. A. WALKER.

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND TREASURER.

The following resolutions were offered by Bro. Jos. Shackelford, which were adopted:

RESOLVED.—That the following brethren be appointed the members of the Executive Board for the next year: A. W. Bailey, J. G. Orr, W. D. Irwin, J. M. Kitchens, J. M. Sandlin, J. M. Shoemaker, Jourdan White, J. N. Jackson, T. R. Bragg, J. A. Walker, Wm. East and J. C. Tidwell, and that seven constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

RESOLVED, SECOND.—That Bro. W. D. Irwin be appointed Treasurer of the Association for the ensuing year.

TEMPERANCE.

The report on Temperance was read by Bro. T. H. Johnson and adopted as follows:

The subject of Temperance is one of the most important questions that demands the attention of the American people. Intemperance corrupts our youth, disturbs the harmony of families, degrades the moral standing of communities and is the source of other evils too numerous to mention. The allies of intemperance are going about like a roaring lion, seeking whom they may devour. With these facts before us, we earnestly call upon all lovers of mankind, and especially all christians and christian ministers, to lift their voices against this curse, and to make prayer to Almighty God for wisdom to successfully fight this hydra-headed monster, and we earnestly recommend to our churches that they keep from the membership any who drink, sell or cause to be sold as a beverage, intoxicating drinks, and that this Association give her support to any movement that has for its object the removal of the strong hold of intemperance from our land.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. ROBERTS.

COLPORTAGE.

The report of the committee on Colportage was read by Bro. J. D. McClanahan and was discussed briefly by him, and then adopted as follows:

We, your committee, be leave to report. On account of the financial

pressure on us, there has not been as many Bibles, Testaments and other Baptist literature sold as we could desire; though our missionaries have done well, considering the scarcity of money. We, as Baptists, need to wake up on this subject. We believe that the colportage work is one of the best means of reaching the people in the rural districts. We would urge upon this Association the importance of this work. Let us give the people the word of God, and scatter Baptist books and tracts in our territory. We would recommend that the Executive Board supply our missionaries with the means to procure Bibles and Testaments to begin their labor in their respective fields.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. McCLANAHAN,
T. R. BRAGG

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The report of the committee on Sunday Schools was read by Bro. A. W. Briscoe. Bro. Shackelford, by request, represented the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and presented the claims of that Board to the Association. Bro. J. Evans also made some remarks. The report of the committee was then adopted as follows:

Your committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report as follows: Last year, of the 56 churches, 36 reported Sunday Schools, with a membership of 1,210. Ten of the schools gave no statistics. This year, out of the 56 churches 31 report Sunday Schools, with a membership of 1,439. Two of the schools give no statistics. It is evident that we are not making the progress in the line of Sunday School work that we ought to make. For your committee to urge the merits of the Sunday School cause before this meeting, would seem to be useless consumption of time. As Baptists, of whom it has been said, "They are the Apostles of the world," we cannot but be alive to the importance of any work that has for its object the dissemination of the word of God. We urge upon the churches the importance of sending to each meeting of this Association a full report of their Sunday Schools, without which we are unable to get important information concerning our denomination. We recommend the plan, as adopted by this body last year, with reference to carrying on the Sunday School work in the bounds of this Association. We would recommend the use of the literature of the Southern Baptist Convention, published at Nashville, Tenn.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. BRAGG,
JAS. EVANS,
A. W. BRISCOE,

Committee.

The Committee appointed by the Association in accordance with the recommendation of the committee, consists of Bros. J. Evans and John A. Thomason. It is made their duty to gather a full report from all the Sunday Schools in the Association. Also, to ask pastors to organize Sunday Schools in their churches, where they have none. To do what is within their power to promote a greater interest in the Sunday School work on the part of the churches. Page 22 of the minutes of 1896 will give the plan as suggested by the committee.

STATE OF RELIGION.

Your Committee on state of religion report as follows: It appears

from the letters and reports of the associational missionaries, that the spiritual condition of the churches generally, is much improved from last year. Many churches appear to be going forward. Some report a very low spiritual state; others have had gracious revivals.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. Weaver,
Frank Chenault,
J. H. Butler.

Bro. J. O. A. Pace made the report on deceased ministers. On motion the Association joined in a song and prayer in memory of Elder Mike Finney, who departed this life since the last session of the body. The prayer was led by Bro. F. C. David. The report was then adopted as follows:

"We, your committee on deceased ministers, beg leave to make the following report:

We find that since the last meeting of the Association, that our beloved brother Elder Michael Finney has passed to his reward. In the death of Brother Finney this Association has lost a most worthy brother; the church a loyal and devoted servant; his family a kind and affectionate husband and father. Brother Finney served his Master earnestly and faithfully. In his death we feel that we have sustained a great loss, but we bow in humble submission to Him, who doeth all things well. We commend his grief-stricken family to the God whom he served. May we emulate his virtues and ever cherish in fond recollection the memory of our departed Brother.

J. O. A. PACE,
JAMES EVANS,
R. L. QUINN.

DOCUMENTS.

The report of the committee on Documents was read and adopted.

"We, your committee on documents, report as follows: We find 49 churches represented by letter and delegates. We find 30 Sunday Schools reported, 8 regular prayer meetings. We find 3 churches asking the next session of our Association, to wit: Kuon, in Lawrence county, Macedonia, Franklin county, and Okolona, in Lawrence county. We find that Center Grove, in Morgan county, asks aid from the Board to assist in supporting a pastor. New Center asks aid on their church building. We also find that 8 churches ask for letter of dismission, to wit: Bethel, Colbert county, Liberty, Siloam, Mt. Pleasant, Tuscumbia, Sheffield, Mt. Stanley, Furnace Hill, Colbert county. We earnestly request the churches of our Association to report their prayer meetings and Sunday Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. McCLANAHAN,
T. R. BRAGG,
J. L. RICHEY.

The following churches were dismissed from the Association at their request, for the purpose of joining a new Association, the Colbert—Sheffield, Tuscumbia, Siloam, Bethel, in Colbert county, Liberty, Mt. Stanley, Mt. Pleasant and Furnace Hill.

SABBATH DESECRATION.

The following resolutions were offered by Bro. Evans, and adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this body that the Sabbath day is being very much desecrated. The fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," should be faithfully taught and clearly proclaimed in all our land. The Sabbath is designed as a day of rest to the soul. The soul is the instrument that guides, directs and controls all the energies of the whole man, and needs the rest provided in God's great plan. A departure, therefore from God's provision for the alleviation of human sorrow, must be productive of great evils. Sabbath desecration is an attempt to find comfort in some other way than that provided for us in the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We, therefore, kindly beseech all people to consider carefully this evil, and render homage to the God of Heaven on His own day.

DIVISIONS OF FUNDS.

Bro. Jos. Shackelford offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Association is hereby instructed to send what means he may secure from the churches for Foreign, Home and State missions, directly to the State Mission Board, Montgomery, Ala., and in addition to the amounts which the churches have directed to be sent to these different Boards, and have already sent them, the Treasurer is hereby directed to send to the State Mission Board a sufficient sum to make the contribution from this Association amount to at least \$100 00 to the State Mission Board, \$50 00 to the Foreign Mission Board, and \$25 00 to the Home Mission Board at Atlanta.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

The committee on time and place of next meeting, and preacher of introductory sermon, made their report, which, on motion, was laid on the table. On motion, the Association proceeded to vote on the churches where the Association should be held. Enon, Mt. Zion, in Lawrence county, and Macedonia, in Franklin county, were put in nomination. The Association voted to go to Enon church. Time, Thursday before the first Sabbath in October, 1898. Bro. A. W. Briscoe was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and Bro. W. T. Cobbs, alternate.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

Bro. J. O. A. Pace offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be extended to the brethren of Hartselle church, and the good people of Hartselle and vicinity, for their kind hospitality shown us during the session of this body.

The Treasurer made the following report, which was ordered printed in the minutes:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

W. D. IRWIN, In Account with Muscle Shoals Association.

1896.			
Oct. 1.	To Amount Cash on hand		\$112 11
" 2.	from Finance Committee		272 00
" 3.	" " "		96 00
" 5.	From Sunday col. for Orphan's Home		20 55
" 5.	Church col. for African Missions		3 85
" 5.	Mt. Hope Church		20 00
" 5.	Jos. Shackelford		10 00
" 5	Int. from Courtland Church funds		16 00
" 28.	From Enon Church		1 55
Dec. 14.	Okolona Church-Mtn. Education		2 85
" 28.	Finance Committee		5 90
1897.			
Feb. 3.	To cash for Missions, Danville Church		4 14
" 3.	Liberty Church		50
" 10.	From Mrs. Emma Bynum, for Min. Educa'n		1 09
Apr. 2.	Hartselle Church for Missions, for 1896		10 80
" 2.	Hartselle Church for Missions, for 1897		5 00
May 15.	New Prospect Church for Missions		89
" 24.	Moulton S. S. for State Missions		5 00
June 3.	Jos. Shackelford, for Missions		8 20
" 22.	Harmony Church, for Missions		1 96
Sept 17.	Harmony Church, for Missions		1 86
" 28.	F. C. Owen, Bequest		20 00
			\$618 87

CREDITS.

1896.			
Oct. 2.	By amount paid Jos. Shackelford on salary		\$20 32
" 2.	Clerk's fee		25 00
" 5.	Ministerial Educational Board		32 79
" 5.	Marion Briscoe on salary		8 07
" 5.	J. W. Sandlin for State Mis. Board		13 10
" 13.	Orphan's Home		20 56
" 27.	Foreign Mission Board		32 85
" 27.	African " "		3 68
" 27.	Home " "		46 60
" 27.	State " "		6 65
Nov. 19.	Minutes		45 00
Dec. 24.	Jos. Shackelford on salary		15 00
" 28.	" " "		9 00
" 31.	Jos. Shackelford for literature		5 00
1897.			
Jan. 7.	Jos. Shackelford for Mis. Education		2 85
Feb. 3.	" " "		18 66
Apr. 1.	" " on salary		30 66
" 1.	Min. Educational Board for Mrs. Bynum		1 00
May 24.	J. W. Sandlin, for State Missions		5 89
June 3.	Jos. Shackelford, on salary		40 00
July 3.	" " "		26 68
" 3.	J. O. A. Pace, on salary		17 50

Aug. 3.	J. O. A. Pace on salary	28 45
Sept. 8.	" " " "	24 25
" 7.	Jos. Shackelford, on salary,	30 00
		\$501 04
		\$618 87

Sept. 30. By Amount Balance on hand.....\$117 83

There being no further business, on motion, the Association adjourned to meet with Enon Church, on Thursday, before the first Sunday in October, 1898. The parting hand was given, and prayer was made by Elder Jos. Shackelford.

R. T. WEAR, Moderator,

JOSEPH SHACKELFORD, Clerk.

NOTE BY CLERK.—The Association omitted to appoint the Board of Ministerial Education. This was an oversight. The Executive Board has reappointed the old Board, the names of whom will be found on first page of cover. This was clearly the duty of the Executive Board, as they are entrusted with all business that is usually done by the Association, which may be overlooked, as well as to change time and place of meeting of Association when necessary.—CLERK.

SABBATH SERVICES.

The services appointed for the Sabbath were held. The Sunday School mass meeting at the Baptist church was led by Bro. T. H. Johnson. Speeches were made by Bros. F. C. David, J. B. Kilpatrick, Prof. Moon, R. T. Wear and J. C. Orr. Elder J. Evans preached at the Baptist church, at 11, a. m., and Elder J. B. Kilpatrick preached at the Methodist church, at 11, a. m.. A full house at the Baptist church met Bro. Evans, who preached a strong and interesting sermon. At the Methodist church the congregation was smaller. They had a good sermon. Collections at both churches for missions, \$7 91.

TRUSTEES OF THE DANVILLE SCHOOL.

The Committee appointed to nominate three Trustees for the Danville School, reported the following, which was adopted: "We, your committee to recommend suitable persons to fill the vacancies in the Board of Trustees of Danville School, respectfully recommend that this body re-elect Dr. Jos. Shackelford, Dr. J. M. Kitchens and T. L. Baker, for three years from 1897.

F. C. DAVID,
J. I. STOCKTON,
T. R. BRAGG.

MINUTES AND CLERK'S FEE.

Bro. A. J. Thames moved that the Clerk have 1000 copies printed, and that he superintend the distribution of the same, and that he be paid \$25 for his services, and that the Treasurer be instructed to pay

for the printing of the minutes and Clerk's fee, adopted.

On motion of Bro. T. R. Bragg, the Board of Trustees of the Danville School were requested to appeal to the churches of the Association for aid to help get desks and other necessary appliances for said school.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee made its report, which was adopted with the understanding that the Clerk make such corrections as needed. (See table on page 27.)

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Moderator announced the following standing committees:

ON ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.—J. D. McClanahan, J. J. Churchwell, J. W. McMillan.

ON STATE MISSIONS.—F. C. David, W. T. Cobbs, R. H. Allison.

ON HOME MISSIONS.—J. Evans, J. L. Richey, J. H. Sullivan.

ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.—T. R. Bragg, T. V. Shoemaker, E. D. Stephenson.

ON EDUCATION.—J. B. Kilpatrick, J. C. Tidwell, C. W. Livingston.

ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.—Jos. Shackelford, W. D. Irwin, J. N. Jackson.

ON ORPHAN'S HOME.—M. Briscoe, W. C. Wright, J. T. Wallace.

ON TEMPERANCE.—J. E. Weaver, M. W. Ballife, W. M. Roane.

ON COLPORTAGE.—J. I. Stockton, T. H. Johnson, J. G. Orr.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—R. L. Quinn, J. B. Sherrell, W. J. Briscoe.

CIRCULATION OF BAPTIST LITERATURE AND TRACTS.

The committee to secure the circulation of Baptist literature and tracts among the churches was continued, and consists of J. I. Stockton, T. R. Bragg and J. W. Sandlin.



REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE, MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION. 1897.

CHURCH.	State Mission—Cash.	State Mission—Vch.	Home Mission—Cash.	Home Mission—Vch.	Foreign Mission—Cash.	Foreign Mission—Vch.	Association—Cash.	Association—Vch.	Ministerial Education—Cash.	Ministerial Education—Vch.	Orphan's Home—Cash.	Orphan's Home—Vch.	Minutes	Total Cash	Total Vouchers	Total Cash and Vouchers
Bethel (C)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$10 00	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 50	12 50		\$ 12 50
Bethel (M)						6 00			2 00				50	6 50		6 50
Blue Springs													25	2 00		2 00
Cave Spring													25			25
Gen. New Decatur	10 00					15 38	4 50				1 50	16 88	14 63	81 5		81 5
Cherry Hill	1 35					3 65		2 00			1 00	6 65	1 35	8 00		8 00
Danville	12 80	5 65			7 50	1 00	10 50	18 84	6 00				20 25	98 79		50 04
Decatur, Ist.	1 85	1 90			5 00		4 55	3 98	5 00				75	16 83		22 13
Knob		33			6 00				25	2 25				12 50	9 25	14 75
Friendship					3 60				1 00					4 00		4 00
Palzville						10 00		1 90	60				45	12 85	60	12 85
Gum Spring (M)					5 00								1 00	7 50		7 50
Harmony					1 00		75	3 82	1 00					2 75	3 82	6 57
Hillsboro	7 77					10 15							75	10 90	7 77	18 67
Hopewell			5 00		10 00		10 00		5 00				1 00	11 50	5 00	16 50
Hartselle	12 00	8 70			10 00		12 30	15 00	5 00				1 00	44 80	24 30	69 60
Lebanon					5 00									6 00		6 00
Macedonia (P)					8 00		7 25	75	2 12					13 25	2 87	16 12
Macedonia (N)							2 20		1 00				50	8 70		8 70
Mt. Zion (M)					3 00		1 50						70	5 20		5 20
Mt. Zion (L)		2 50			2 50		3 45	1 55		2 00			50	8 05	3 55	12 50
Mt. Nebo (P)						20 00			10 00					30 00		30 00
Mt. Nebo (M)					5 00								1 00	6 00		6 00
Mt. Hope					20 00			5 00	5 00					25 00	5 00	30 00
Moulton	10 00				15 00			6 00	9 00					32 00	19 00	41 00
Mt. Pisgah					50	15 50					2 00	1 00	1 00	16 50	2 50	19 00
New Hope					1 85	1 15							30	8 30		8 30
Mt. Hanley						14 25								14 25		14 25
New Prospect	80					5 85								5 85	80	6 74
New Center													45	45		45
New Decatur	25 80				6 28	3 23		2 15	5 00	2 14			1 10	8 60	87 08	45 70
Oklona					10 00				3 00				1 00	11 00	5 00	16 00
Pleasant Grove	4 20					1 50		5 00					5	2 00	9 00	11 20
Prospect						1 00							40	2 00		2 00
Russellville	14 00					2 50			5 00			5 00		24 00		24 00
Rocky Creek						2 50								2 50		2 50
Sheffield	2 50				5 00		2 50		5 00				15 00			15 00
Salem	1 00					4 50			2 10					4 80	3 10	7 90
Somersville						7 87		2 43	2 00					9 57	2 43	12 00
Pleasant Hill (M)						3 50								3 50		3 50
Shady Grove					2 25				1 00				50	5 25	1 00	6 25
Tuscumbia	10 00		5 00			1 50			2 05		4 25			1 50	21 30	22 80
Town Creek	2 40					17 69			12 50					17 69	14 90	32 50
Trinity					2 00	4 70		1 30	2 50				50	9 25	1 80	10 45
Liberty						7 00									7 00	7 00
Mt. Pleasant						5 36									5 36	5 36
Pleasant Hill (L)						1 25								1 75		1 75
Total	\$14 50	110 79	10 00	6 63	82 10	12 78	240 63	83 97	87 80	84 12	4 19	11 25	19 15	408 87	300 56	717 98
Mt. Pisgah, for Orphan's Home.														1 00	30 77	
J. C. Tubb, for Ministerial Education.														2 50		
John L. Masterson, for Minutes.														5 00		
J. M. Roberts, Ministerial Education.														3 50		
Collections on Friday, for Missions.														1 00		
India's Aid Society, Hartselle, Missions.														1 00		
Miss Johnson, Ministerial Education														25		
Collections on Sunday.														7 91		

\$429 80. \$340 38. \$770 22

RECAPITULATION.

CASH AND VOUCHERS

RECEIVED FOR	CASH.	VOUCHERS.	TOTAL.
State Missions.....	\$ 14 50	\$110 79	\$126 29
Home Missions.....	10 00	6 65	16 65
Foreign Missions.....	82 10	12 78	94 88
Associational Missions.....	244 13	83 97	328 10
Ministerial Education.....	44 05	84 12	128 17
Orphan's Home.....	4 19	42 02	46 21
Minutes.....	19 15		19 15
Public collection.....	11 77		11 77
	<hr/> \$420 89	<hr/> \$340 33	<hr/> \$770 22

By amount paid Treasurer by Committee.....	\$411 80
“ “ “ “ from New Hope Church	3 80
“ “ “ “ by R. T. Wear, Sunday's	
collection.....	7 91
By error.....	6 88
	<hr/> \$429 89

C. A. WOMBLE,
JNO. A. THOMASON, } Committee.
G. H. HUGHES,

The Finance Committee made a mistake in putting down some items as cash, when they ought to have been placed in the columns of vouchers. I am satisfied that this is the way the apparent discrepancy, which is seen in the amount of cash turned over to the Treasurer, occurred.

CLERK.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION, 1897.

[illegible]

Total money given for Missions	\$570	"Of this amount, \$500 was given in memory of Miss Glend Orr, by her father, J. G. Orr. She loved the cause of Christ
Ministerial Education.	184 33	while she lived, and was a faithful worker. " This church has a passage. Money received from individual pledges
Orphan's Home.	46 31	not included in this report.
Howard College.	5 00	
Grand Total.	\$755 64	

Grand Total.

116.26

16.65-

4.88 / 330

330.53
1172

28.92

760.95

STATISTICS OF MUSCLE SHOALS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE.	Increase By		Decrease		Present Membership	Sunday School Funds	Singing School Officers & Teachers	Preaching Sabbaths	Reports Received	S. S. SUPERINTENDENT'S NAME AND P. O. ADDRESS.
					By Baptism	By Letter	By Excommunication	By Death						
Bethel	Morgan	J I Stockton	J L Love	Hartsell	94				78			1		No report
Bethany	Morgan	J R Blackman	J W Owens	Town Creek	55				50			1		
Blue Springs	Morgan	J C Weaver	W J Weaver	Center Grove	70				70			1		
Cave Spring	Morgan	W J Collier	Triceville		14				13			1		
Cent. New Decatur	Morgan	Jno A Thomason	Decatur		106				108			1		No report
Center Grove	Morgan	J D McClanahan	M W Ratliff	Center Grove	43				43			1		Jno A Thomason, Decatur
Cherry Hill	Franklin	J O A Pace	E R Elcherson	Waco	41				29			1		
Danville	Morgan	Jos Shackelford	T H Johnson	Ilaville	66				53			1		
Decatur, Ist.	Franklin	J D McClanahan	W W Garnett	Decatur	33				31			1		J B Kilpatrick, Danville
Enon	Lawrence	Marlon Briscoe	T Wallace	Jebeson	122				125			1		
Friendship	Morgan	W T Cobbs	E W Rolen	Basham	36				41			1		
Falville	Morgan	J C Roan	T L Simpson	Falkville	45				56			1		J L Thompson, Falkville
Gum Spring	Morgan	J R Blackman	E J Parnell	Hartsell	73				88			1		A T Tapscott, no statistics
Gum Spring	Lawrence	J R Blackman	W H Muston	Baton	45				51			1		
Harmon	Lawrence	L A Wear	Jno S Howell	Moulton	59				60			1		W S Howell, Pitt
Hopewell	Morgan	A W Briscoe	F H Orr	Danville	113				122			1		No report
Hillsboro	Lawrence	Jos Shackelford	W B Cottingham	Hillsboro	60				50			1		J M Stephens, Hillsboro
Hartselle	Morgan	W T Cobbs	E T Johnson	Hartselle	60				64			1		J M Aitchen, Hartsell
Isabel	Franklin				21				21			1		
Lebanon	Morgan	W J Briscoe	H T Thomason	Falkville	72				73			1		
Macedonia	Morgan	J I Stockton	L W Jones	Lanes	28				30			1		
Macedonia	Franklin	R T Wear	F P Atkins	Newburgh	64				73			1		T N Vinson, Newburgh
Minion Grove	Lawrence	J M Roberts	W Yates	Courtland	13				18			1		
Moulton	Lawrence	W Sandlin	H B Irwin	Moulton	46				48			1		John White, Moulton
Mt. Zion	Lawrence	W C Sumners	H H Butler	Hartselle	71				72			1		J L Richey Edmund
Mt. Zion	Morgan	J D McClanahan	W H H Thompson	Edmund	78				78			1		No statistics given
Mt. Nebo	Morgan	W T Cobbs	R H Gibson	Hartselle	78				77			1		J R Witt, Mosey
Mt. Nebo	Franklin	R T Wear	G W Hargett	Hargis Mill	78				78			1		
Mt. Pleasant	Lawrence	R T Wear	Geo W Jackson	Mt Hope	78				78			1		
Mt. Pleasant	Morgan	Marlon Briscoe	A Mc Clellan	Flint	87				87			1		Juo W Gibson, Flint
New Hope	Morgan	M J Roberts	M J Roberts	Courtland	21				21			1		
New Prospect	Lawrence	J R Blackman	M H Masterson	Landsville	30				34			1		Edgar Hamilton Courtland
New Friendship	Morgan	W J Wright	J D Blackman	Flint	30				31			1		
New Central	Morgan	E E Wright	J W Maples	Somerville	29				29			1		W J Blankenship, Somerville
New Decatur	Morgan	C C David	P K Harden	New Decatur	88				88			1		N Holloway, Somerville
Okona	Lawrence	L A Ware	R L Bond	Baton	66				66			1		J C Pence, New Decatur
Pleasant Grove	Lawrence	J J Churchwell	M C Bragg	Moulton	72				72			1		P T Campbell, Edmund
Prospect	Morgan	J E Roan	J E Leeman	Somerville	21				17			1		
Pleasant Hill	Morgan	J G Gunn	G V Stewart	Simpson	40				40			1		R P Aday, Simpson
Russellville	Franklin	J Evans	Peter Clay	Russellville	80				80			1		N C Greenhill, Russellville
Rocky Creek	Morgan	J E Weaver	J C Allison	Lawrence Cove	58				62			1		
Salem	Lawrence	L A Ware	E P Weatherwax	Moulton	62				61			1		F F Weatherwax Moulton
Somerville	Morgan	J E Roan	S A Lynn	Somerville	30				30			1		S S, but no statistics
Shady Grove	Morgan	J I Stockton	J A Moore	Neal	34				34			1		M Livingston, Neal
Town Creek	Lawrence	R T Wear	Jno M Jackson	Mt Hope	105				105			1		J C Fubb, Mt Hope
Trinity	Morgan	J I Stockton	H T Lile	Trinity	29				29			1		S S, but no statistics
Pleasant Hill	Lawrence	E M Atkins	F M Reed	Mountain Home	17				17			1		
Total					2769	178	182	7	2769	121	1169	1116		

REMARKS—Pleasant Hill church was formerly called Calhoun. Sheffield church, Furnace Hill, Tusculum, Salem, Bethel in Colbert, Liberty, Mt. Stanley and Mt. Pleasant churches, with a membership of 62 reported this year were dismissed at this session to join Colbert Association, hence we did not give the statistics. * No report from the churches this year. Some churches have Sunday Schools, but give no statistics. Some have Sunday Schools but do not report them. There are about 30 Sunday Schools. Valthernosa Springs church is dropped, having made no report for two years.